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# Commission on the Status of Women

## Report on the forty-seventh session (3-14 and 25 March 2003)

**Economic and Social Council**
**Official Records, 2003**
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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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# Chapter I

## Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

### A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

**Draft resolution I**
**Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women***

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1]

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

*Recalling also* its resolution 2002/25 of 24 July 2002 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

*Recalling further* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

*Expressing* the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

*Concerned* about the grave deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other severe consequences of the continuing Israeli attacks and sieges on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, which has resulted in the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

*Expressing its condemnation* of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] E/CN.6/2003/3.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] See General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[6] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[7] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[8] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women",[9] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[6] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[7] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[9] E/CN.6/2003/3.

**Draft resolution II**
**Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan***

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[11] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[12] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[13] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[14] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[15] and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict[16] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[17] the Beijing Declaration[18] and Platform for Action,[19] the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[20] accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[21] and other instruments of human rights and international law,

*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[22] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[11] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[11] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[23]

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and 1460 (2003), on children and armed conflict,

*Recalling also* the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, signed in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,[24]

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.
[10] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[11] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[12] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[13] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
[14] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[15] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
[16] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex I.
[17] Ibid., annex II.
[18] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[19] Ibid., annex II.
[20] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.
[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[22] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.
[23] A/CONF.183/9.
[24] See S/2001/1154.

*Recalling further* the funding commitments made at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in June 2002,

*Welcoming also* the holding of the Emergency Loya Jirga in June 2002, establishing the Afghan Transitional Authority, and the participation of more than two hundred women in the meeting,

*Welcoming further* the continuing commitment of the Afghan Transitional Administration to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the opportunity for women to work outside the home,

*Welcoming* the return of more than three million children to school, including one million girls, since March 2002, and the international support that has made it possible,

*Welcoming also* the inclusion of women in the Transitional Administration, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Independent Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional Drafting Commission and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

*Welcoming further* the fact that the National Development Framework of the Transitional Administration reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

*Welcoming* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which have hosted millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas, such as education, health and other basic services,

*Recognizing* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs, interests and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

*Emphasizing* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes*:

(a) The ongoing commitments made by the Afghan Transitional Authority to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect and promote respect for international humanitarian law;

(b) The ratification by the Afghan Transitional Authority of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] on 5 March 2003;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[25]

3. *Urges* the Afghan Transitional Authority to:

(a) Ensure that any legislative, administrative and other measures support the full enjoyment of women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(c) Protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls;

(d) Provide the necessary support and resources to enable the Ministry of Women's Affairs to function effectively, so that the Ministry can fulfil its task in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Transitional Administration;

(e) Ensure that the Judicial Reform Commission, the Constitutional Drafting Commission and the Independent Human Rights Commission have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates and ensure that gender perspectives are consistent with international standards;

(f) Affirm full support for the full, equal and effective participation of women in the constitutional process and in the Constitutional Loya Jirga; and to ensure that the principle of equality between men and women and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, are guaranteed by the new constitution;

(g) Continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, including by ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice for women;

(h) Continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police, prosecutors and judiciary, and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

(i) Review and improve the practices of law enforcement personnel when dealing with women victims of violence, particularly those accused of offences based on tradition or imprisoned for social reasons to protect them from violence by family members;

(j) Ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are applied in the development and application of procedures during data collection for the census and the registration of voters to deliver universal suffrage and the full participation of women in the national elections in 2004;

(k) Ensure the equal right of women and girls to education, the effective functioning of schools throughout the country and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

[25] E/CN.6/2003/4.

(l) Respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of Afghan society;

(m) Protect the equal right of women and girls to security of person, and to bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

(n) Initiate rapid demobilization and disarmament, and facilitate the reintegration of those, in particular women and girls, who have participated in or have otherwise been affected by war into society and work;

(o) Raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence, including domestic violence, against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to take place, and strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women by using legislative measures;

(p) Ensure the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;[11]

(q) Ensure the equal right of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to and control over natural resources as well as access to markets and information;

4. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, donors and civil society, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, to:

(a) Provide financial and technical assistance, including support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls so as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

(b) Fully support the Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women in society, inter alia, by providing support to ministries to develop their capacity to mainstream gender issues into their programmes;

(c) Provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

(d) Support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, and to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice in accordance with international standards in order to combat impunity;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and donors to:

(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles

of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) Ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(c) Support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, and encourage the involvement of women therein;

(d) Ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

(e) Integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

(f) Continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and returning refugee and displaced women and girls as well as those living in rural areas;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the post of Senior Gender Adviser in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is filled immediately and with due regard to the need for continuity in this task;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

**Draft resolution III**
**Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women***

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Endorses* the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session with respect to participation in and access of women to the media and on information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[26] and the outcome document adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[26] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

first century",[27] on the potential of the media and of information and communications technologies to contribute to the advancement and empowerment of women. It also recalls the United Nations Millennium Declaration[28] and its Development Goals to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease, to stimulate development that is truly sustainable and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all.

2. The Commission notes that, globally, there are substantial differences in participation in, access to and use of media and information and communications technologies, their content and production. Such differences have important implications for policy development at national, regional and international levels. A focus on the gender dimensions of information and communications technologies is essential in order to prevent and combat any adverse impact of the digital revolution on gender equality and the perpetuation of existing inequalities and discrimination, including the sexual exploitation of women both through the traditional media and new technologies. The media and information and communication technologies also offer tools for enhancing women's full access to the benefits of information and new technologies and can become central tools for women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality. Efforts are therefore necessary to increase women's access to and participation in the media and information and communication technologies, including in their decision-making processes and new opportunities created through information and communication technologies.

3. The Commission welcomes the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, which is to be held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, and urges all participants to take the following recommendations into account and to integrate gender perspectives in every facet of the Summit. It further encourages the participation of women in the Summit, to include significant numbers of gender equality experts and women experts in the field of information and communication technology as members of national delegations, organizations of civil society and the business community.

4. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, to take the following actions:

(a) Prioritize the integration of gender perspectives and ensure women's early and full participation in the development and implementation of national policies, legislation, programmes, projects, strategies and regulatory and technical instruments in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) and media and communications, and create monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure implementation of gender-sensitive policies and regulations as well as to analyse the gender impact of such policies in consultation and collaboration with women information technology specialists, women's organizations and gender equality advocates;

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[27] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.
[28] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

(b) Encourage regulatory bodies, where they exist, to promote full participation of women in the ownership, control and management in the ICT and media sectors;

(c) Include gender perspectives and measurable gender-specific targets in all programmes and projects on ICT for development, as well as specific activities, as appropriate, for women and girls as active users of information;

(d) Remove ICT-related infrastructural barriers that disproportionately affect women and girls and promote the establishment of affordable and accessible ICT-related infrastructure for all women and girls, bearing in mind the specific needs and interests of women and girls living in countries in the process of peace-building and reconstruction;

(e) Invite, as appropriate, through partnerships, or through the use of self-regulatory gender-sensitive guidelines and self-regulatory gender-sensitive guidelines for media coverage and representation, public and community media to work in support of gender equality, bearing in mind the importance of providing financial resources and other support;

(f) Support research into all aspects of the impact of the media and ICT on women and girls, in particular into their information needs and interests, review existing media and ICT policies and find ways to adapt ICT to the needs of poor and, in particular, illiterate women, in order to overcome barriers and support women's empowerment;

(g) Make education, formal and non-formal, a priority in particular for the development of ICT and take measures to promote girls' education so as to enable girls and women to gain access to ICT;

(h) Include, at appropriate levels of government, ICT education for girls and women in curricula at all educational levels, from early childhood to tertiary level, as well as in continuing education, in order to promote and ensure women's full participation in the information society;

(i) Take concrete steps to increase the number of female students at all educational levels in media- and ICT-related subjects, including science, mathematics and technology, including through such methods as distance- and e-learning;

(j) Establish or, where they already exist, expand skills training, vocational and employment training and capacity-building programmes for women and girls and women's non-governmental organizations on the use, design and production of ICT, including preparing them to take on leadership roles and promote their participation in the political process, and integrate a gender perspective in ICT training programmes for teachers and in training programmes for media professionals;

(k) Enable equal access for women to ICT-based economic activities, such as small business and home-based employment, to information systems and improved technologies and to new employment opportunities in this area, and consider developing tele-centres, information centres, community access points and business incubators;

(l) Strengthen partnerships among all stakeholders to build the capacity of women to fully participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, the information society, including e-governance, where it exists and as it is developed, and participatory approaches;

(m) Ensure equal opportunities for women and monitor gender representation in different categories and levels of work, education and training in the media and ICT areas, with a view to increasing women's participation in decision-making at all levels of ICT and the media;

(n) Provide management, negotiation and leadership training for women, as well as mentoring systems and other support strategies and programmes to enhance women's capabilities and potential for advancement in the media and ICT sectors;

(o) Take effective measures, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, to combat the growing sexualization and use of pornography in media content, in terms of the rapid development of ICT, encourage the media to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, combat ICT- and media-based violence against women, including criminal misuse of ICT for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and girls, and support the development and use of ICT as a resource for the empowerment of women and girls, including those affected by violence, abuse and other forms of sexual exploitation;

(p) Respect the value of different and local languages and promote and encourage local knowledge systems and locally produced content in media and communications, support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of women, and build the capacity of girls and women to develop ICT content;

(q) Encourage South-South cooperation to facilitate transfer and exchange of low-cost technologies and appropriate ICT content between developing countries for the benefit of women and girls;

(r) Strengthen and encourage the use of existing information and communication technologies, such as radio, television, telecommunications and print, in parallel in order to enhance the use of new technologies for gender equality and the economic, political and social empowerment of women as leaders, participants and consumers and recognize that women and girls are potentially large-scale consumers, users and producers of ICT and media;

(s) Collect, share, positively recognize and widely publicize good practices to counter gender stereotyping, negative portrayals and exploitation of women in all forms of the media and ICT as part of their efforts to eliminate discrimination and violence against women;

(t) Increase efforts to compile, and disaggregate by sex and age, statistics on ICT use, in order to develop gender-specific indicators on ICT use and needs and to collect gender-specific data on employment and education patterns in the media and in ICT professions;

(u) Provide adequate and appropriate resources for innovative, affordable, accessible and sustainable media and ICT programmes, projects and products that support gender equality and gender mainstreaming, are relevant to the concerns of

women and girls and provide support to women's online communities and networks that promote gender equality;

(v) Prioritize the allocation of resources to support programmes, projects and strategies that aim at increasing women's participation in, and equal access to, the information society, including vocational, scientific and technical training, literacy training and capacity-building programmes;

(w) Enhance, for the benefit of women and girls, international cooperation in support of national efforts to create an enabling environment to reduce the digital and information divide between developed and developing countries and promote, develop and enhance access to ICT, including the Internet infrastructure by facilitating access to, and transfer of, knowledge and technology on concessional, preferential and favourable terms to the developing countries, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries;

(x) Strengthen the capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women, including through the allocation of adequate and appropriate resources and the provision of technical expertise, to take a lead advocacy role with respect to media and ICT and gender equality, support their involvement in national, regional and international processes related to media and ICT issues and enhance coordination among ministries responsible for ICT, national machineries for the advancement of women, the private sector and national non-governmental organizations working in the field of gender advocacy.

## B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Draft decision**
**Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission***

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-seventh session and approves the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) The role of men and boys in gender equality;
   (b) Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

## C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

**Resolution 47/1**
**Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)***

*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration[29] and the Development Goals contained therein, in particular the aim of the Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS),[30]

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001, entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", adopted at its twenty-sixth special session, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001,

*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 57/299 of 20 December 2002, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS",

*Recalling* the agreed conclusions adopted at its forty-fifth session, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",[31]

*Recalling also* its resolution 46/2 of 15 March 2002, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",

*Deeply concerned* that the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes a global emergency, and that it disproportionately affects women and girls, and emphasizing that violence against women and girls as well as social, cultural, biological and economic factors can increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[29] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[30] Ibid., para. 19.

[31] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 1* (E/2001/99), resolution 2001/5.

2. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to continue to implement the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[32] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

3. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to challenge gender stereotypes and attitudes and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys;

5. *Encourages* the continued collaboration between the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies and programmes and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to address the growing links between HIV/AIDS and other programmes, including humanitarian programmes;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries, and also from national budgets, in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

7. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

8. *Welcomes* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

9. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

10. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his reports on HIV/AIDS, to take a gender perspective into account.

**Resolution 47/2**
**Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system***

*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

[32] General Assembly resolution S-26/2.

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

*Recalling* its resolutions 45/2 of 17 March 2001 and 46/3 of 15 March 2002, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 and 2002/23 of 24 July 2002 and General Assembly resolutions 56/132 of 19 December 2001, 57/182 of 18 December 2002, and 57/300 of 20 December 2002,

*Welcoming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration[33] and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Welcoming also* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to establish in its agenda the sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system",

*Welcoming further* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system,[34]

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

*Reaffirming also* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[35] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[36]

*Recognizing* that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic as well as the specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

*Underlining* the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system;[37]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by entities of the United Nations system as outlined in the above report of the Secretary-General, including:

(a) Formulating and implementing gender equality policies and strategies;

(b) Making efforts to enhance and integrate gender perspectives into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;

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[33] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[34] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

[35] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[36] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[37] E/CN.6/2003/2.

(c) Establishing or strengthening institutional mechanisms, such as gender units/focal points, networks and task forces, to provide catalytic support and strengthen capacity in sectoral areas;

(d) Strengthening staff skills and capacity to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes;

(e) Establishing appropriate monitoring, evaluation or other progress-reporting mechanisms to assess the impact of gender equality policies and strategies;

(f) Implementing programmes and other activities aimed at increasing awareness of gender issues at national and international levels;

(g) Increasing inter-agency activities within the United Nations system, inter alia, at regional and global levels as a vehicle for coordination, information-sharing and joint activities;

3. *Calls upon* those entities of the United Nations system that have not already done so to consider implementing these and other innovative measures in pursuit of gender mainstreaming goals;

4. *Invites* all entities of the United Nations system, in pursuit of governmental and intergovernmental commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming goals, to identify remaining gaps in policy frameworks and strategies and assess the impact of such frameworks and strategies, so that future programmes, capacity-building and institutional measures can be better designed and better targeted to achieve the desired outcomes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, towards this end, to include in his report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system:

(a) An assessment of the remaining gaps in frameworks for gender equality policies and strategies and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes of the entities of the United Nations, as well as proposals for addressing such gaps;

(b) An assessment of the role and effectiveness of existing institutional mechanisms with a view to effecting their increased use in delivering the desired outcomes on gender equality;

(c) An overview of monitoring mechanisms for gender mainstreaming that are currently in place in the entities of the United Nations system;

(d) An assessment of the impact of policies and strategies designed to enhance attention to gender perspectives in all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;

(e) An assessment of the most pertinent gaps in sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific information across all policy and programme areas;

6. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider deciding to devote its coordination segment in 2004 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide

implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system.[34]

**Decision 47/101**
**Report of the Working Group on the future operation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women***

The Commission on the Status of Women:

(a) Takes note of the preliminary report of the Working Group on the future operation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[38]

(b) Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it consider the reports of the Working Group to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session[39] under the appropriate agenda item at its substantive session of 2003.

**Decision 47/102**
**Communications concerning the status of women***

The Commission on the Status of Women, recalling the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out in Economic and Social Council resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, 340 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, 1992/19 of 30 June 1992 and 1993/11 of 27 July 1993 and decision 2002/235 of 24 July 2002,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women,[40]

Taking into account the consideration by the Commission at its forth-seventh session of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women[41] and the preliminary discussion on communications concerning the status of women,

1. Decides that, at its forty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to consider the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for this purpose, bearing in mind the preliminary discussion that took place at the forty-seventh session of the Commission and seeking the written views of Member States in this regard.

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.
[38] A/AC.266/1.
[39] A/57/330 and Add.1.
* For the discussion, see chap. IV.
[40] E/CN.6/2001/12 and E/CN.6/2002/12.
[41] See chap. IV, para. 12.

**Decision 47/103**
**Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda items 3 and 5***

At its 15th meeting, on 25 March 2003, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[42]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women the United Nations system;[43]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women;[44]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[45]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement of women;[46]

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.[47]

* For the discussion, see chap. III.
[42] E/CN.4/2003/73-E/CN.6/2003/5.
[43] E/CN.6/2003/8.
[44] E/CN.4/2003/121-E/CN.6/2003/11.
[45] E/CN.6/2003/7 and Corr.1.
[46] E/CN.6/2003/6.
[47] E/CN.6/2003/10.

# Chapter II

## Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. The Commission on the Status of Women considered agenda item 2 at its 1st, 6th, 13th and 14th meetings, on 3, 5, 13 and 14 March 2003. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (E/CN.6/2003/1), and the report of the Working Group on the future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (A/AC.266/1). (See chap. VIII, sect. D, for the agenda and organization of work.)

2. At the 6th meeting, on 5 March, the Chairperson of the Working Group on the future operation of INSTRAW presented the preliminary report of the Working Group.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic and Argentina.

### Action taken by the Commission

**Report of the Working Group on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

4. At the 13th meeting, on 13 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Report of the Working Group on the future operation of INSTRAW" (E/CN.6/2003/L.7), which had been submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 47/101).

7. Before the draft decision was adopted, a statement was made by the representative of the Dominican Republic.

# Chapter III

## Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 8th, 10th, 11th and 13th to 15th meetings, from 3 to 6 March, 10, 11, 13,14 and 25 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2003/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2003/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2003/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2003/73-E/CN.6/2003/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2003/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2003/7 and Corr.1);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2003/8);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.6/2003/11);

(i) Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Center for Women, the Earth, the Divine, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Women, International Federation for Home Economics, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, the Salvation Army and Women's International Zionist

Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women, a non-governmental organization on the Roster (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/1);

(j) Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Women, International Federation for Home Economics, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, the Salvation Army and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women, a non-governmental organization on the Roster (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/2);

(k) Statement submitted by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/3);

(l) Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/4);

(m) Statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/5);

(n) Statement submitted by Empowering Widows in Development and the National Women's Commission, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.2003/NGO/6);

(o) Statement submitted by Mothers' Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/7);

(p) Statement submitted by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/8);

(q) Statement submitted by the United States Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/9);

(r) Statement submitted by the American Association of Retired Persons, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhoods Centres, International Federation on Ageing, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Bahá'í International Community, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, League of Women Voters of the United States, National Association

of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Pan-Pacific Southeast Asian Women's Association International, Trickle Up Program, United States Committee for UNIFEM and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association and United Nations Association of the USA, non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/10);

(s) Statement submitted by Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/11);

(t) Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/12);

(u) Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/13);

(v) Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/14);

(w) Statement submitted by the All-China Women's Federation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/15);

(x) Statement submitted by the European Women's Lobby, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/16);

(y) Statement submitted by the Legião da Boa Vontade (Legion of Good Will), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/17);

(z) Statement submitted by World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and Catholic Women, a non-governmental organization on the Roster (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/18);

(aa) Statement submitted by National Alliance of Women's Organisations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/19);

(bb) Statement submitted by Franciscans International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Presentation Association Sisters of the Presentation, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., School Sisters of Notre Dame and Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/20);

(cc) Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

American Psychological Association, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, International Association of Schools of Social Work, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and World Federation for Mental Health, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/21);

(dd) Statement submitted by the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation for Home Economics, the International Federation of University Women and the League of Women Voters of the United States, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/22);

(ee) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/23);

(ff) Statement submitted by the Al-Khoei Foundation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.2003/NGO/24);

(gg) Statement submitted by the National Women's Council of Catalonia, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/25);

(hh) Statement submitted by the National Women's Council of Catalonia, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/26);

(ii) Statement submitted by Equality Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/27);

(jj) Statement submitted by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2003/NGO/28);

(kk) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.1);

(ll) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2004-2005 (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.2);

(mm) High-Level round table on national experiences in institutional capacity-building: discussion guide prepared by the Bureau of the Commission (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.3).

2. At its 1st and 5th to 8th meetings, on 3, 5 and 6 March, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 3 March, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Deputy

Executive Director UNIFEM and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, China and the Republic of Korea and by the observers for Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Greece (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey and Iceland) and Namibia.

5. At the 5th meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Lithuania, Croatia, Germany, Malaysia, Gabon, Guatemala, Senegal, Mexico, the United States of America, Japan, Peru, Argentina, South Africa, Denmark, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan, and by the observers for Sweden, Australia, Norway, Israel, Kenya and Canada.

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

7. At the 6th meeting, on 5 March, the Commission heard an address by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Botswana (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the United Republic of Tanzania, Indonesia, Turkey and Egypt, and by the observers for Nigeria, Morocco, Guyana, Iceland, New Zealand, Thailand, Mali and the Philippines.

9. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

10. Statements were made by the representatives of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Economic Commission for Africa (on behalf of the regional commissions).

11. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Organization for Migration and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

12. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences also made a statement.

13. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank.

14. The representative of the Coalition against Trafficking in Women, a coalition of non-governmental organizations, made a statement.

15. At the 7th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Chile, the Netherlands (on behalf of the Consultative Committee on UNIFEM), Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Malawi, Italy, Benin and Botswana, and by the observers for Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Switzerland, Liechtenstein, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Congo, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

17. The representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) made statements.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Equality Now; African Women's Caucus on African Women and Information and Communication Technologies; NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security; and Human Rights Advocates.

19. At the 8th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard statements by the representative of Zambia and by the observers for Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia, India, Rwanda and Grenada.

20. Statements were also made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice; International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; European Women's Lobby; and Womenspace.

## Panel discussions on agenda item 3 (c)

## A. Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women

21. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agenda item 3 (c) (i)).

22. Presentations were made by the following experts: Ms. Carolina Aguilar Ayerra (Cuba), Director of "Women of Cuba"; Ms. Ammu Joseph (India), Lecturer, Asian College of Journalism, Madras; Ms. Rosalind Gill, Ph.D (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Gender Institute, London School of Economics; Ms. Chat Garcia Ramilo (Philippines), Project Manager for the Association of Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme; and Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Director, Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

23. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts in which the following delegations participated: Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, Gabon, Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. The observers for Namibia and Switzerland also spoke.

25. Observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: International Federation of University Women, Project 5-0; and the Women's National Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## B. Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the General Assembly entitled: "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

26. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the General Assembly entitled: "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (agenda item 3 (c) (i)).

27. Presentations were made by the following experts: Ms. Zhang Lixi (China), Vice President, China's Women's University, Beijing; Justice Vera Duarte Lobo de Pina (Cape Verde), Coordinator, National Committee on Human Rights (Cape Verde); Ms. Barbara Limanowska (Poland), Special Adviser on trafficking for various international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Ms. Ayse Feride Acar (Turkey) Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

28. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts in which the following delegations participated: Benin, Botswana, Croatia, Cuba, Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Israel, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

29. Observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Asia Pacific Women's Watch and Empowering Widows in Development.

## C. High-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on national experiences in institutional capacity-building

30. At its 4th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held a high-level round table on national experiences in institutional capacity-building in which the following delegations took part: Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Tunisia and the United States of America.

31. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission decided to include the Chairperson's summary of the high-level round table (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.8) in the report of the Commission (see annex III).

## Action taken by the Commission

**Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women**

32. At the 10th meeting, on 10 March, the observer for Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2003/L.1).

33. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the observer for Morocco orally revised the text of the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "the continuing Israeli assaults" were revised to read "the continuing Israeli attacks";

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which read:

"Expressing its condemnation of acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury of human life,"

was revised to read:

"Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women, and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,";

(c) In paragraph 5, the words "continue to" were inserted between the word "Calls upon the international community to" and "provide";

(d) In paragraph 7, the words "including those laid out in his report entitled 'Situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women'" were inserted after the words "all available means".

34. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

35. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 38 to 1 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:[1]

*In favour*:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

[1] The delegation of Benin subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution. The delegation of the Congo subsequently indicated that its vote had not been registered and should have been registered as in favour of the draft resolution.

*Against*:

United States of America.

36. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Brazil and the Russian Federation. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of the United States.

37. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observers for Israel; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for Morocco.

38. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was also made by the observer for Palestine.

**Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)**

39. At the 10th meeting, on 10 March, the observer for Angola,[2] on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)" (E/CN.6/2003/L.2), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001, entitled 'Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS', adopted at its twenty-sixth special session, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001,

"*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 57/299 of 20 December 2002, entitled 'Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS',

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

"*Reaffirming* the agreed conclusions adopted at its forty-fifth session, entitled 'Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)',

"*Recalling* its resolution 46/2 of 15 March 2002, entitled 'Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)',

"*Recognizing* that HIV/AIDS is a humanitarian crisis that disproportionately affects women and adolescent girls, who are socially, culturally, biologically and economically more vulnerable,

"1. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

[2] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"2. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, to continue to implement the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to effectively reflect in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the goals set for 2005;

"3. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

"4. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made towards the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, in fulfilment of paragraph 80 of the Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS;

"5. *Encourages* the continued collaboration and cooperation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies to cope with the growing links between HIV/AIDS and other humanitarian programmes;

"6. *Welcomes* the establishment by the United Nations Development Fund for Women of its new online resource centre and web portal on gender and AIDS, which will provide widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and more appreciation of the critical intersect. between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

"7. *Calls* for enhanced efforts at gender mainstreaming in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies, in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes and in mass media reporting;

"8. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his reports on HIV/AIDS, to take a gender perspective into account."

40. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission had before it the text of a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2003/L.2/Rev.2) submitted by Angola, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community,[2] and also on behalf of Benin, Cape Verde,[2] Ghana,[2] Israel,[2] Mali[2] and Mexico.

41. At the same meeting, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

42. The Commission was informed that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

43. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, resolution 47/1).

**Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system**

44. At the 10th meeting, on 10 March, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,[2] on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as Andorra, Chile, Greece, Italy, Romania and South Africa, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" (E/CN.6/2003/L.3), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 45/2 of 17 March 2001 and 46/3 of 15 March 2002, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 and 2002/23 of 24 July 2002 and General Assembly resolutions 56/132 of 19 December 2001 and 57/182 of 18 December 2002,

"*Welcoming* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to establish in its agenda a sub-item entitled 'Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system',

"*Welcoming also* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system,

"*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

"*Reaffirming also* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

"*Underlining* the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system;

"2. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by entities of the United Nations system as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, including:

"(a) Formulating and implementing gender equality policies and strategies;

"(b) Making efforts to enhance and integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policies;

"(c) Establishing or strengthening institutional mechanisms, such as gender units/focal points, networks and task forces, to provide catalytic support and strengthen capacity in sectoral areas;

"(d) Strengthening staff skills and capacity to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes;

"(e) Establishing monitoring, evaluation or other accountability mechanisms to assess the impact of gender equality policies and strategies;

"(f) Implementing programmes and operational activities aimed at increasing awareness of gender issues at national and international levels;

"(g) Increasing inter-agency activities at regional and global levels as a vehicle for coordination, information-sharing and joint activities;

"3. *Calls upon* those entities of the United Nations system that have not already done so to consider implementing these and other innovative measures in pursuit of gender mainstreaming goals;

"4. *Invites* all entities of the United Nations system, in pursuit of government and intergovernmental commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming goals, to identify remaining gaps in policy frameworks and strategies and assess the impact of such frameworks and strategies, so that future programmes, capacity-building and institutional measures can be better designed and better targeted to achieve the desired outcomes;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, towards this end, to include in his next report on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system:

"(a) An assessment of the remaining gaps in frameworks for gender equality policies and strategies and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in sectoral areas in the entities of the United Nations, and proposals for addressing such gaps;

"(b) An assessment of the role and effectiveness of existing institutional mechanisms with a view to effecting their increased use in delivering the desired outcomes on gender equality;

"(c) An overview of monitoring mechanisms for gender mainstreaming that are currently in place in the entities of the United Nations system;

"(d) An assessment of the impact of policies and strategies designed to enhance attention to gender perspectives in sectoral areas;

"(e) An assessment of the most pertinent gaps in sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific information by sector."

45. At the 13th meeting the Commission had before it the text of a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2003/L.3/Rev.1).

46. At the same meeting, Bangladesh, Benin Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia,

Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Slovenia, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tunisia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

47. The Commission was informed that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

48. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 47/2).

49. Before the adoption of the draft resolution a statement was made by the representative of Argentina.

**Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan**

50. At the 11th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Greece,[2] on behalf of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan" (E/CN.6/2003/L.4), which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and other instruments of human rights and international law,

"*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

"*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and 1460 (2003), on children and armed conflict,

"*Recalling also* the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, signed in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in June 2002,

"*Welcoming also* the holding of the Emergency Loya Jirga in June 2002, establishing the Afghan Transitional Authority, and the participation of more than two hundred women in the meeting,

"*Welcoming further* the continuing commitment of the Afghan Transitional Administration to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the opportunity for women to work outside the home,

"*Welcoming* the return of more than three million children to school, including one million girls, since March 2002,

"*Welcoming also* the inclusion of women in the Transitional Administration, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Independent Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional Drafting Commission and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

"*Welcoming further* the fact that the National Development Framework of the Transitional Administration reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace building, reconstruction and development,

"*Welcoming* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which have hosted millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas, such as education, health and other basic services,

"*Recognizing* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs, interests and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

"*Emphasizing* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

"1. *Welcomes*:

"(a) The ongoing commitments made by the Afghan Transitional Authority to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect and promote respect for international humanitarian law;

"(b) The ratification by the Afghan Transitional Authority of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] on 5 March 2003;

"2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[24]

"3. *Urges* the Afghan Transitional Authority:

"(a) To repeal all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls, as well as those that impedes the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(b) To enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

"(c) To protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls;

"(d) To provide the necessary support and resources to enable the Ministry of Women's Affairs to function effectively, so that the Ministry can fulfil its task in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Transitional Administration;

"(e) To ensure that the Judicial Reform Commission, the Constitutional Drafting Commission and the Independent Human Rights Commission have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates and ensure that gender perspectives are in line with international standards;

"(f) To affirm full support for the participation of women in the constitutional process and in the constitutional Loya Jirga;

"(g) To continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, inter alia, by ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice for women;

"(h) To continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police force, and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

"(i) To review and improve the practices of law enforcement personnel when dealing with women victims of violence, particularly those accused of offences based on tradition or imprisoned for social reasons to protect them from violence by family members;

"(j) To ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are applied in the development and application of procedures during data collection for the census and the registration of voters to deliver universal suffrage and the full participation of women in the national elections in 2004;

"(k) To ensure the equal right of women and girls to education, the effective functioning of schools throughout the country and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

"(l) To respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of Afghan society;

"(m) To protect the equal right of women and girls to security of person, and to bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

"(n) To initiate rapid demobilization and disarmament, and facilitate the reintegration of those who have participated in or have otherwise been affected by war into society and work;

"(o) To raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence, including domestic violence, against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to take place, and strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women by using legislative measures;

"(p) To ensure the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

"(q) To reaffirm the equal right of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to and control over natural resources as well as access to markets and information;

"4. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, donors and civil society, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, to:

"(a) Continue to provide financial and technical assistance, including support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls so as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

"(b) Fully support the Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women in society, inter alia, by providing support to ministries to develop their capacity to mainstream gender issues into their programmes;

"(c) Provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

"(d) Support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, and to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice in accordance with international standards in order to combat impunity;

"5. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and donors:

"(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men,

and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

"(b) To ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

"(c) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, and encourage the involvement of women therein;

"(d) To ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

"(e) To integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

"(f) To continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the post of Senior Gender Adviser in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is filled on a permanent basis;

"7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session a report of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

51. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2003/L.4/Rev.1) submitted by Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

52. At the same meeting, Argentina, Slovakia and Slovenia joined as sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

53. Subsequently, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic and the Philippines joined as sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

54. The Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

55. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the revised draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

56. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States.

**Draft agreed conclusions on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women**

57. At the 14th meeting on 14 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Birgit Stevens (Belgium), reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 3 (c) (i) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

58. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Stevens, and requested their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

**Draft agreed conclusions on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

59. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil), reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 3 (c) (ii) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

60. At the 15th meeting, on 25 March, upon the proposal of the Acting Chairperson, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), the Commission decided not to adopt the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Coimbra.

61. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peru (on behalf of the Rio Group), Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Pakistan, China, Sudan, the United States of America, South Africa (also on behalf of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Mali and Senegal), and by the observers for Angola (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community) and New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Norway and Switzerland).

**Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3**

62. At its 15th meeting, on 25 March, on the proposal of the Acting Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the following decision under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 47/103):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2003/73-E/CN.6/2003/5);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2003/8);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.4/2003/121-E/CN.6/2003/11);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2003/7 and Corr.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/2003/6).

# Chapter IV

# Communications concerning the status of women

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 12th (closed), 13th and 14th meetings, on 12, 13 and 14 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2003/SW/Communications List No. 37).

2. The Commission established a working group to consider, under agenda item 4, communications concerning the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the working group:

Ms. Astanah **Abdul Aziz** (Malaysia)
Mr. Alberto Pedro **D'Alotto** (Argentina)
Mr. Andrej **Dogan** (Croatia)
Mr. Peter-Derrek **Hof** (Netherlands)
Ms. Edith **Nkunduwiga** (Burundi)

3. At its 13th meeting, on 13 March, the Commission held a preliminary exchange of views on the communications procedure. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Cuba, the Sudan, China, Argentina, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Brazil and Croatia, and by the observers for the Syrian Arab Republic, Greece and India.

## Action taken by the Commission

### Communications concerning the status of women

4. At the 13th meeting, on 13 March, the representative of Argentina, also on behalf of Chile, Croatia and the Netherlands, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/2003/L.8), which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out in its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, 340 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, 1992/19 of 30 June 1992, 1993/11 of 27 July 1993 and 2002/235 of 24 July 2002,

"*Bearing in mind* the reports of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women,

"*Taking into account* the consideration by the Commission at its forty-seventh session of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and the discussion on communications concerning the status of women,

"1. *Decides* that the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session will consider the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, for this purpose, to prepare a report on the various existing communications mechanisms and procedures within the United Nations system; the report should include:

"(a) An analysis of the number, type, subject matter and sources of communications received by the bodies concerned in the past five years insofar as they relate to women, as well as the possibilities of the Commission on the Status of Women receiving relevant information on those communications;

"(b) An elaboration of the mandate, authority and scope of each mechanism;

"(c) The types of complaints, which cannot be addressed by any of the existing mechanisms;

"(d) The possibilities for channelling communications from the Division for the Advancement of Women to other United Nations mechanisms and procedures which would be able to address those communications effectively."

5. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission had before it amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/2003/L.8 submitted by the representative of Egypt, also on behalf of China, Cuba, India,[1] Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria,[1] Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan (E/CN.6/2003/L.9) by which:

(a) At the beginning of the draft resolution, the words "The Economic and Social Council" would be replaced by the words "The Commission on the Status of Women";

(b) In the third preambular paragraph, the word "preliminary" would be inserted before the word "discussion";

(c) In paragraph 1, the words "will consider" would be replaced by the words "will continue the consideration of";

(d) Paragraph 2 would be deleted.

6. At the same meeting, the Chairperson introduced a draft resolution, which was circulated in an informal paper and submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on agenda item 4.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 47/2).

8. In the light of the adoption of the draft resolution, draft resolution E/CN.6/2003/L.8 and the amendments contained in document E/CN.6/2003/L.9 were withdrawn by the sponsors.

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Chile.

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

**Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women**

10. At its 12th meeting (closed), on 12 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN6/2003/CRP.6).

11. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group, and agreed to include it in the report of the Commission. The report of the Working Group is as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I(XI), 1983/27 and 1992/19.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2003/SW/COMM.LIST/37 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the seven confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the 15 confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the status of women. It also took note of the fact that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were replies from Governments to three of the seven communications received by the Division for the Advancement of Women directly and replies to 14 of the 15 communications transmitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

5. The Working Group recalls its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of resolution 1983/27, which states that the Working Group is to meet in closed meetings during each session of the Commission in order that it may perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which will indicate the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. Due to the limited number of communications received (22), it was not possible to make an assessment concerning the existence of a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women. However, the Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women, including rape, perpetrated by State agents such as members of the police force, security forces, prison guards and members of the army;

(b) Violations of the rights of female human rights defenders, in particular the violation of the freedom of expression and assembly;

(c) Violations of the rights of women belonging to ethnic or religious minorities including killings, inhuman and degrading treatment and discrimination;

(d) Violations of women's human rights in the context of internal conflicts, including killings, torture and enforced or involuntary disappearances.

7. The Working Group was concerned about a communication indicating the existence of certain legal practices that prescribe cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment of women.

8. The Working Group noted that some of the communications transmitted under the confidential procedure governed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVII) were apparently still under consideration, while others appear to have been discontinued.

# Chapter V

## Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 9th and 13th meetings, on 7 and 13 March 2003. It had before it a letter dated 31 October 2002 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2003/9), the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions (E/CN.6/2003/10) and a note by the Secretariat on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for eradication of poverty and sustainable development (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.4).

2. At the 9th meeting, on 7 March, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

### Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 13th meeting, on 13 March, the Commission authorized the Chairperson to draw the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the note by the Secretariat on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for eradication of poverty and sustainable development (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.4) for the information of the Council's high-level segment of 2003.

# Chapter VI

## Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 10th meeting, on 10 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2003/L.5), which was introduced by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

# Chapter VII

## Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session

1. At its 15th meeting, on 25 March 2003, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.6/2003/L.6).

2. The Commission then adopted the draft report on its forty-seventh session and entrusted the Bureau with its completion.

# Chapter VIII
# Organization of the session

## A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 14 March and on 25 March 2003. The Commission held 15 meetings (1st to 15th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the forty-sixth session of the Commission, Othman Jerandi (Tunisia), who also made a statement.

## B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex IV to the present report.

## C. Election of officers

4. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve a term of office of two years. The following officers elected at the forty-sixth session continued to serve during the forty-seventh session:

*Chairperson*:
Othman Jerandi (Tunisia)

*Vice-Chairpersons*:
Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil)
Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea)
Birgit Stevens (Belgium)
Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan) who also serves as Rapporteur

## D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 3 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2003/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women;

(ii) Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

## E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

6. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed: Astanah Abdul Aziz (Malaysia), Alberto Pedro D'Alotto (Argentina), Andrej Dogan (Croatia), Peter-Derrek Hof (Netherlands) and Edith Nkunduwiga (Burundi). The Working Group held one meeting.

# Annex I

## Panel discussion on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women

### Summary submitted by the moderator (Birgit Stevens (Belgium))

1. At its second meeting, on 3 March 2003, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, one of the thematic issues of the Commission's forty-seventh session. The panellists were Carolina Aguilar Ayerra (Cuba), editorial director of "Women of Cuba"; Ammu Joseph (India), freelance journalist and media analyst; Rosalind Gill (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), lecturer at the London School of Economics; Concepción García Ramilo (Philippines), project manager for the Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme; and Sarbuland Khan, Director, Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The panel was moderated by Birgit Stevens (Belgium).

2. Participants noted that the emergence of new information and communication technologies (ICT) and the profound changes in global media and communication systems posed opportunities and challenges for the promotion of gender equality. They emphasized the role of ICT and the media as tools for development and as central to the empowerment of women. These new media and ICT were increasingly used to share knowledge, enhance participation of all members of society, increase networking, give voice to marginalized groups, organize political action, empower people, fight poverty and enhance economic development. It was therefore particularly important to address gender-based discrimination and inequalities that undermine women's access to opportunities in the emerging knowledge and information society and diminish the potential of ICT and the media to be an effective tool for the promotion of gender equality.

3. A human rights approach framed the debate as participants placed emphasis on women's rights in the information society, with enhanced opportunities for democratic governance, the exercise of citizenship and full participation in development for all, based on rights to information and communication. Participants also made reference to the call in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2) that ICT become available to all. As these technologies were seen as tools for the achievement of all the millennium development goals, their gender perspectives had to be addressed in their use.

4. Participants underlined that consideration of the role of media and ICT in the empowerment of women presented the Commission on the Status of Women with a crucial opportunity for enhancing attention to gender perspectives in the ongoing preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society and for ensuring that gender equality was at the centre of global discussions on the future of the information society. While the draft declaration that had emanated from the second

session of the preparatory committee of the Summit (17 and 18 February 2003) paid some attention to gender perspectives and the priorities and needs of women, participants were very concerned about the absence of relevant actions from the draft plan of action. It would therefore be especially important for participants in the Commission, particularly for representatives from national machineries for the advancement of women, to work with their national delegations to the Summit to strengthen attention to gender perspectives in the process and in the outcome documents. The Commission's agreed conclusions, as well as relevant reports before the Commission, would be important instruments in ensuring the success of those efforts. Steps were also needed to increase the number of women, as well as of gender experts, in governmental, business and civil society delegations in all activities related to the Summit and its preparations.

5. Women's portrayal in the media remained an urgent challenge that had to be addressed across all regions and all types of media. It was noted that an increase in the number of women in media professions had not necessarily led to a less sexist or stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. New strategies were needed to increase awareness among all media professionals to change the images of women conveyed by the media, as well as to improve media content. This was especially necessary as sexist images and rhetoric had resurfaced in new media and in ICT. An increasing sexualization and normalization of pornography was now pervasive in all media, and the Internet was increasingly used to spread pornography and for trafficking of women and girls. Participants called for policies and adequate regulatory frameworks to address gender-based discrimination and, in particular, sexism in all media, as had already been proposed in the Beijing Platform for Action. At the same time, it was recognized that in any legislative and regulatory approach, a balance had to be found between women's rights and freedom of expression of the media and in ICT. Approaches used in other areas, such as the regulation of hate speech and licensing procedures, were mentioned as examples that could give guidance in this regard. The lack of or insufficient attention to gender perspectives in media and communication policies also had to be addressed.

6. While the preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society and other global and United Nations activities on ICT had highlighted the digital divide between and within countries and between rich and poor, urban and rural dwellers, young and old, and divides based on class, caste or ethnicity, little attention had so far been paid to the gender-based barriers and divides women encountered in access to and use of information and communication technologies. While most of the world's people remained without access to ICT, existing gender inequalities had made it even more difficult for women to gain such access. Participants identified the gender dimensions of a number of barriers, including those relating to the lack or inadequacy of infrastructure, costs, poverty and resources, literacy and educational levels and language.

7. In addition to access, participants emphasized the need to clarify women's information needs and to address questions of content available through the media and new technologies. Participants noted that information and communication technologies were tools that had to be integrated into women's lives rather than being pursued for their own sake. They should be adapted to women's needs and made part of all programmes, for example those aimed at enhancing women's education or health. Much of the information presently available through ICT was in English, and thus of limited relevance and use to the majority of women. This made

it imperative to support the production of local content in local languages. Organizations that produced such local content aimed at the empowerment of women especially deserved assistance. Participants also called for research on women's information needs.

8. Many participants emphasized the importance and continuing usefulness of "old", traditional media and technologies, especially those that were not text-based, as tools for the empowerment of women. Women's initiatives in the area of community, traditional and alternative media should be recognized, supported and strengthened. Community radio was cited as an example and as a vital link for disseminating local information to communities not sufficiently served by other national media. Radio in particular was a means for poor women, especially in rural areas, to obtain information and to increase knowledge, and was considered by some to be a more useful tool than other technologies, especially in the short term.

9. Participants were concerned that little progress had been made in improving the trend of women's employment in the media, especially at the decision-making level. Issues such as high attrition rates of women in media professions worldwide required a range of measures, including the setting of goals and targets and the adoption of gender-sensitive policies in human resources management. The information society offered many new economic opportunities for women, but women had to overcome numerous barriers to take advantage of them. Unfavourable established patterns of women's employment were already being replicated in the field of ICT, where women were increasingly found in low-paying jobs. Participants called for measures to promote women's economic participation in the information society. Greater numbers of women and girls in science and technology were a critical prerequisite for ensuring that women not only acquired access to ICT, but also gained more control over such technologies and their production.

10. The changing environment in the global media and communication systems and the rapid developments in the ICT sector increased the urgency to integrate gender perspectives into legislation, policies and regulatory frameworks related to those sectors. So far, most national ICT policies, plans and programmes paid no attention to gender perspectives and were silent on women's priorities and needs. Gender analysis had to be undertaken at all stages of policy and programme development, from their initial design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Political will and leadership had been decisive in a number of countries to strengthen attention to gender perspectives in national ICT policies. An increase in financial resources was needed to improve infrastructure and increase women's access to ICT.

11. Participants called for the collection of data disaggregated by sex on the use of and access to ICT and the media in order to create a solid basis for informed policy-making. Apart from quantitative data, qualitative gender-specific indicators on various aspects of ICT use, access and dissemination, as well as on women's information needs, had to be compiled so that targeted responses could be developed. The establishment of measurable targets and benchmarks for gender equality in ICT was also recommended.

12. The work of the Economic and Social Council had been instrumental in putting ICT for development on the agenda of the United Nations. This work was of an inclusive and participatory nature that involved the contribution of all stakeholder groups. The United Nations ICT Task Force was based on a multi-stakeholder

approach that involved Governments, the private sector and civil society and that included gender equality as one of its goals. A number of the most interesting and promising activities spearheaded by the working groups of the Task Force were women's projects.

13. Participants provided examples of good practices and shared ideas for enhancing the role of the media and ICT in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Awards for positive, non-sexist portrayals of women in the media were seen as an excellent incentive, but measures were also needed to ensure institutional adherence to non-sexist portrayals within media organizations. Incentive systems of different types could be pursued, and voluntary codes of conduct and guidelines on gender-sensitive and non-sexist reporting should be encouraged. Efforts were necessary to achieve adequate coverage in the media and ICT of women in political and leadership positions, especially also during election campaigns, as inadequate coverage of women by the media had been shown to be directly related to their underrepresentation in political office. Partnerships between government and civil society organizations helped in increasing women's access to ICT.

# Annex II

## Panel discussion on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

### Summary submitted by the moderator (Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil))

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 March 2003, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, one of the themes of the forty-seventh session of the Commission. The panellists were Zhang Lixi (China), Vice President of China's Women's University; Vera Duarte Lobo de Pina (Cape Verde), Coordinator of the National Committee of Human Rights; Barbara Limanowska (Poland), Special Adviser on Trafficking for various international organizations; and Ayse Feride Acar (Turkey), Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

2. The participants agreed that all forms of violence against women were a clear violation of women's human rights. Every day women and girls died as a result of various forms of sex-based violence.

3. Participants focused on domestic violence as one of the most widespread forms of violence against women. Domestic violence should not be regarded as an event between a man and a woman but should be dealt within the context of overall relations between women and men. Violence against women was a manifestation of unequal distribution of power between men and women within families and communities. Within families, women might be subordinate to men and be considered the property of their husbands and families. It was important to sensitize government officials, law enforcement officials, medical workers, social workers and society at large to domestic violence, its causes and ways and means to prevent it.

4. Participants stressed that, in addition to physical and sexual abuse, hidden forms of violence, such as psychological abuse, also needed to be addressed. Psychological abuse had a long-lasting, negative impact on victims' lives, damaging victims' self-esteem and confidence, destroying their dignity and respect as human beings, isolating them from the outside world and entrapping them in violent relationships.

5. Improvements in the response of social services in intervening in and preventing domestic violence against women had been observed in many parts of the world. However, a lot more needed to be done, and social services agencies had to be strengthened. Participants also stressed the need to provide for treatment programmes for male perpetrators and conduct community-based public education and "zero tolerance" campaigns. Efforts had to be undertaken, especially through the media, to change public attitudes towards domestic violence and disseminate

information to the public on women's rights and the remedies available for violations of those rights. Involving men and boys in programmes to eliminate violence against women was considered essential.

6. Participants highlighted another form of violence that in the past ten years had reached worldwide proportions, namely trafficking in women and girls. Trafficking was acknowledged as a serious problem for countries of origin, transit and destination. Although initiatives had been taken to combat it, there was no evidence of a decrease in the phenomenon.

7. It was noted that the traditional law enforcement approach, based on bar raids by the police, was ineffective and counter-productive as it pushed trafficking deeper underground, making it impossible to gain access to trafficked women and girls, who were viewed as criminals rather than victims. The need to take a human rights approach to trafficking was underscored, especially in respect of strategies to identify and assist victims. Clear instructions for the police on how to treat actual and potential victims of trafficking were required, and cooperation between police and specialized non-governmental organizations in the victim identification process was considered essential.

8. The reintegration of victims of trafficking was discussed. Participants called for the provision of psychological support for victims suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as sustained economic and social support, including vocational training, the provision of jobs, microcredit and housing. Reintegration assistance had to be available to all returning victims of trafficking.

9. Participants recognized that non-governmental organizations had done a lot of work to combat trafficking but lacked capacity and resources, both of which should be strengthened. However, systems of long-term assistance to victims and integration programmes were possible only if Governments played the leading role in anti-trafficking activities, including through development and coordination of national plans of action to combat trafficking, which should involve governmental and non-governmental actors, at both national and international levels.

10. Participants stressed the need to address the root causes of trafficking, including the economic situation of countries of origin, especially countries with economies in transition where changes in the economic structure had had a predominantly negative impact on women. Effective prosecution measures were necessary, and ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, should be encouraged.

11. Participants also underlined that women and girls were particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence and other human rights violations during armed conflict, and that special attention had to be given to their situation.

12. During the discussion, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was given particular attention. It was noted that some progress had been made in its implementation at the national level, particularly in the areas of new legislation, growing awareness and sensitivity, and the strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women. However, participants stressed that States were far from having reached a shared notion of women's human rights as contained in the Convention, the Beijing Platform for

Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Participants indicated that many States continued to have laws discriminating against women, including those governing marriage, administration of marital property, divorce, inheritance, and the family. Moreover, it was recalled that many States continued to have reservations with regard to the Convention which undermined the object and purpose of the Convention.

13. Participants referred to what they saw as an emerging negative trend in the implementation of women's human rights in the present globalized world, namely that in a number of societies, so-called respect for traditions, culture or religion of minorities appeared to impede the vigorous protection of women's human rights. It was stressed that discriminatory traditions that violated women's human rights had to be changed. In that regard, participants underscored the universality of women's human rights.

14. Participants also stated that there was growing recognition in the international arena that discrimination was multifaceted and complex. Much needed to be done to recognize and eliminate the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women around the world.

15. The role of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in ensuring a more effective implementation of the Convention was also pointed out. The Optional Protocol, which entered into force in 2000 allowed individual women and groups of women to complain to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of violations of their rights under the Convention. National-level awareness raising and capacity-building were considered critical for this instrument to be utilized effectively.

16. Participants also referred to the work under way towards the adoption of a regional human rights instrument, the protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which would help promote and protect women's human rights in Africa. The protocol should complement current international human rights instruments and would be particularly instrumental in combating social practices and legislation that discriminated against women, including in the area of violence against women.

17. Participants provided some examples of good practices and shared ideas on necessary measures to combat violence against women. Good practices included the provision of social security benefits to battered women and the development of indicators to gather reliable information on the occurrence of gender-based violence, with a view to formulating appropriate policies to combat violence against women. Efforts were necessary to pass and enforce legislation on all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as to ensure that women and girls were aware of their rights and the remedies available for the violation of such rights. Changing gender-role stereotypes through education and awareness-raising programmes and addressing the root causes of violence, including through poverty-reduction measures, were also considered fundamental.

# Annex III

## High-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on national experiences in institutional capacity-building

### Summary submitted by the chairperson (Othman Jerandi (Tunisia))

1. At its fourth meeting, on 4 March 2003, the Commission held a high-level round table (decision 46/101) on the theme of national experiences in institutional capacity-building, in particular in relation to the two themes examined by the Commission, that is, participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women; and women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The high-level round table was an opportunity for a dialogue primarily among senior representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women attending the forty-seventh session of the Commission from capitals. A discussion guide prepared by the Bureau of the Commission supported the dialogue (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.3). One Deputy Prime Minister, four ministers, nine vice-ministers, state secretaries and directors-general/secretaries-general, and 13 other senior representatives from national machineries for the advancement of women participated in the interactive dialogue.

2. Participants welcomed the convening of the high-level round table and saw it as a very good initiative to exchange views and national experiences in institutional capacity-building for the advancement of women.

3. Participants discussed the organizational and structural evolution of national machineries, which in many instances had accelerated after the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). The examples revealed a great diversity of such machineries. Participants noted that structures and mandates responded to the particularities of countries, but also influenced the effectiveness of the mechanisms. Speakers noted that the preparatory process, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the Beijing Platform for Action had noticeably strengthened the role of national machineries. Since then, a number of governmental mechanisms with responsibility for promotion of gender equality and advancement of women had been upgraded or been moved to more strategic locations. Others had been strengthened through legislation or decrees. The mandates of a number of mechanisms had been further enhanced and clarified. The consideration of reports by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had also had positive effects on the status of national machineries.

4. Institutional arrangements for the advancement of women included full-fledged ministries for gender equality, or ministries that included gender equality among other responsibilities. Other countries had state secretariats, bureaux attached to presidential or prime ministerial offices, while still others had established departments for gender equality. Responsibility for gender equality was sometimes

assigned to different ministers on a rotating basis, with the support of expert departments, or shared between ministries and departments. In many countries, national machineries had decentralized structures, with offices or branches at regional, provincial and/or district level to ensure attention to gender equality issues at all levels of government and to link with women's groups at the grass-roots level, especially in rural areas. In many countries, governmental mechanisms were supplemented by advisory councils, ombudspersons and other advocacy and monitoring institutions to enhance promotion of gender equality.

5. Increasingly, the role of national machineries was to support the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy. Participants underlined that because of the cross-cutting, or transversal, nature of gender issues, all ministries had responsibility for gender equality and were required to use the gender mainstreaming strategy to promote gender equality. Consequently, national machineries worked in coordination with all, or a selected number of, ministries and government agencies and were responsible for evaluation, monitoring and follow-up. It was also noted, however, that even when a satisfactory structure was in place, a machinery's functionality could be limited by lack of or insufficient power to influence or pressure ministries to address gender dimensions in their work. Participants suggested that the mandates of national machineries should be regularly reviewed and adjusted in order to respond to new challenges and global developments.

6. The use of the gender mainstreaming strategy was leading to adjustments in the role and functions of national machineries. Such machineries increasingly acted as "watchdogs" for gender equality and were called upon to ensure that assessments were made of the impact of all decisions and public policies on women and men before their adoption, rather than being implementing entities for specific activities for women. Others emphasized the continuing need for national machineries to advocate for the interests and needs of women and to demand the implementation of activities and policies targeted to women. Many national machineries continued to execute such particular activities for women. These included awareness-raising, capacity-building, and training.

7. Participants stressed that the coordination and monitoring role of the national machinery was greatly facilitated and enhanced when clear directives on gender equality had been issued from the highest level of Government, i.e. the President or Prime Minister, to all Government entities. Line ministries and government agencies in a number of countries had adopted gender equality policies and strategies and instituted gender offices or appointed gender focal points to enhance implementation of such policies. In a number of countries, steering committees or inter-ministerial working groups had been established to support government-wide use of the gender mainstreaming strategy and to identify and address challenges and obstacles. Regular reporting requirements by ministries at national levels had also been established to enhance accountability.

8. While many challenges remained in ensuring awareness about the requirements of gender mainstreaming, it was proving even more difficult to create the necessary capacity for undertaking gender analysis systematically in all governmental work. Participants emphasized that political will and relevant gender mainstreaming policies had to be complemented by technical capacity and expertise to undertake gender analysis in all sectoral areas. To that end, tools, methodologies

and indicators and handbooks on gender mainstreaming for different ministries had been prepared to strengthen gender analysis and to establish benchmarks for assessing progress. Competence development and training were important aspects for enhancing the capacity in the public sector. In one country, all ministers, including the prime minister, had undergone relevant training. Various incentive systems had also been put in place to increase attention to gender perspectives in government agencies. Other participants noted that lack of adequate analytical and diagnostic capacity continued to hamper progress in gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

9. Several participants discussed experiences with gender-sensitive budgeting as a way for ensuring that public resources benefited women and men equally, and that women's interests and needs received appropriate attention. Participants were concerned about the very limited financial and human resources available to some national machineries, not only for specific activities for women, but also for its coordination and catalytic functions. In many cases the percentage of the national budget assigned to the national machinery was disproportionately low or, in cases of ministries with joint portfolios such as women and children's affairs, resource allocation within the ministry was uneven. National machineries were also working with international and regional organizations to increase capacity and expand activities in support of gender mainstreaming.

10. Promotion of gender equality required cooperation and collaboration with different stakeholders, especially as achievement of gender equality was a societal responsibility. Cooperation and collaboration with political parties, parliament and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, facilitated enactment and implementation of gender equality legislation. National machineries frequently worked with women's groups to implement projects and specific activities, and to reach women in remote and rural areas. Cooperation with the private sector was also increasingly undertaken to achieve stated goals. Cooperation with relevant stakeholders was especially important to ensure implementation of national action plans for gender equality.

11. Information and communication technologies could assist in such collaboration and promote good governance and democracy as it opened up and facilitated communication between the government decision makers and legislators on the one hand, and civil society on the other. The media had an important role in raising awareness about gender issues, to combat stereotypes and strengthen commitment to gender equality.

12. Participants gave examples of practical activities for the achievement of gender equality, especially in the areas of violence against women, and the use of ICT. Female-staffed police stations and crises centres had been established to assist women victims of violence. Resources were being invested to train judges and enhance women's access to justice. Gender-sensitive legislation on immigration and refugee protection had been drafted, using tools of gender analysis, as had other legislation aimed at fighting violence against women, including harmful traditional practices. Training activities about violence against women had helped in bringing this issue into the public realm and implementing measures to combat such violence. The practice of honour killings had been publicly condemned. The appointment of independent rapporteurs at the national level on issues such as trafficking in women and girls was presented as an example of good practice. One-stop crisis centres had

been established in hospitals for victims of violence against women. Resources had been provided towards the prevention and elimination of trafficking in women and girls.

13. Other examples of activities focused on eliminating hunger, the reduction of women's poverty and supporting women in rural and remote areas, including through the provision of microfinance. The World Solidarity Fund for poverty eradication and the promotion of human and social development in developing countries was mentioned as a possible channel for supporting ICT-related activities for women. Resources had been provided and public-private partnerships had been established to increase women's access to ICT. Measures had been taken to reduce women's illiteracy. Several participants mentioned that the number of women in political office had increased, which had facilitated the gender mainstreaming efforts. Training was provided to first-time women office holders.

14. The high-level round table greatly benefited from the participation of high-level representatives from capitals and from the interactive dialogue that took place among ministers and other senior officials with responsibility for promotion of gender equality at the national level. The exchange of experiences and information was seen as a very valuable innovation of the forty-seventh session of the Commission, and participants were invited to continue this exchange of good practices, lessons-learned and obstacles encountered in institutional capacity-building among national machineries in the months ahead. The Chairperson expressed his hope that the Commission would build on this first effort and enhance the interactive character of the dialogue at future sessions, in order to improve the Commission's working methods and enhance its role as a central intergovernmental body for the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of 2000.

# Annex IV

## Attendance

### Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina | Arnoldo M. Listre, Laura Isabel Velazquez, Alberto Pedro D'Alotto, Pedro von Eyken, Maria Fabiana Loguzzo, Alejandra Martha Ayuso |
| Azerbaijan | Yashar Aliyev, Mominat Omarova, Elmira Suleymanova, Jamila Ramaaznova, Lala Ibrahimova |
| Belgium | Jean de Ruyt, Birgit Stevens, Michiel Maertens, Carine Joly, Jacqueline Lemoine, Mariska Huygh, Leen Leemans, Pascale Franck |
| Benin | Joel Wassi Adechi, Nicole Elisha |
| Botswana | Lesego E. Motsumi, Marty I. Legwaila, Leutlwetse Mmualefe, Sanji M. Monageng, Tebatso F. Baleseng, Vuyelwa P. Mvungama, Keabonye Ntsabane, Bargaret Modise |
| Brazil | Emilia Therezinha Xavier Fernandes, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viott, Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo, Regina Celia de Oliveira Bettencourt, Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Elio de Almeida Cardoso |
| Burkina Faso | Marie Gisele Guigma, Michel Kafando, Fatimata Ouedraogo, Jacqueline Oubida |
| Burundi | Edith Nkunduwiga |
| Chile | Juan Gabriel Valdés, Cristian Maquieira, Loreto Leyton, Gladys Zalaquett |
| China | Yishan Zhang, Xiaoqiao Zou, Bohua Xie, Meifang Zhang, Shu Huang, Lei Zhang, Caixia Zhang, Jixiu Hang |
| Croatia | Zelika Antunovic, Jasna Ognjanovac, Dubravka Šimonić, Andrej Dogan, Jasmina Vrhovac |
| Cuba | Magalys Arocha Dominguez, Orlando Requeijo Gual, Carolina Aguilar Ayerra, Ivet Vega Hernández, Margarita Valle Camino, Ana Teresita González Fraga, Luis Amorós Nuñez, Ana Milagos Martínez Rielo |

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| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Kim Chang Guk, Mun Jong Chol |
| Denmark | Ellen Margrethe Loj, Ulla Lehmann Nielsen, Trine Rask Thygesen, Birgit Madsen, Trine Lund Pedersen, Kira Appel, Randi Iversen |
| Dominican Republic | Yadira Henriques de Sanchez Baret, Nora Nival, Sergia Galvan, Maria de Jesus Diaz, Rosa Zorrilla, Eladia Medina, Estela Altagracia Vasquez, Isabel Cristina Rodriguez, Margarita Pichardo, Mariela Sanchez, Argentina Macario |
| Egypt | Farkhanda Hassan, Mai Khalil, Riham Khalil, Ali Sadek |
| Gabon | Angélique Ngoma, Denis Dangue Rewaka, Régina Aworet Oberdeno, Alfred Moungara Moussotsi, Grégoire Lomba, Jean Christian Obame, Serge Dieudonné Mambo |
| Germany | Gunter Pleuger, Marion Thielenhaus, Waltraud Dahs, Gabriele Wolk, Annette Priess, Manuel Mueller, Heike Paque, Inge von Boenninghausen, Birgit Dederichs-Bain |
| Guatemala | Lily Caravantes, Connie Taracena Secaira |
| Guinea | Bangoura Mafoula Sylla, Makhissa Camara, Hadja Madina Bah, Koumbassa Hadja Hawaou Diallo, Hadja Maimouna Toure, Bilguissa, Djibril Sylla, Saidou Diallo |
| Indonesia | Abdul Aziz Hoesein, Mochamad Slamet Hidayat, Sigit Wardono, Andalusi Aristaputri, Salman Al-Farisi, Yayan G. H. Mulyana, Maria Madjid Priyoharyono, Inti Nusantari Subagio, Ita Gambiro |
| Islamic Republic of Iran | Maimaneh Hasteh, Mostafa Alaei, Ehterami, Bahram Nejad, Onsori |
| Italy | Pier Benedetto Francese, Mario Serio, Brunella Borzi, Stefano Laporta, Marco De Giorgi, Pia Locatelli, Marina Porro, Marisa Martori, Loredana Pesoli, Roberta Donolato, Mara Carluccio, Bianca Maria Pomeranzi |
| Japan | Yoriko Meguro, Fumiko Saiga, Michiyo Uesugi, Eiji Yamamoto, Yuichi Takayasu, Yasuko Nishino, Yukiko Takase, Teruyo Shimasaki, Mamiko Chiya, Ryoko Kawai, Toru Morikawa, Yuki Sakai, Naoko Hashimoto, Harumi Okawa |

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| Kyrgystan | Aibek Moldogaziev |
| Lithuania | Audrone Morkūnienė, Gediminas Šerkšnys, Alina Budrauskaitė |
| Malawi | Isaac C. Lamba, Jane Asani-Ndelemani, Alice Mkandawire, Makomo Chirwa |
| Malaysia | Datin Faizah Mohd Tahir, Zainuddin Yahya, Dain Shamsiah Dahaban, Dato Dr. Sharifah Hapsah, Zuraidah Amiruddin, Astanah Abdul Aziz |
| Mexico | Patricia Olamendi Torres, Patricia Espinosa Torres, Norma Acacia González de González, Matilde Saldaña Hernández, Olimpia Flores Ortíz, Claudia Cruz Santiago, Yolanda Castro Escudero, Aida Carreño Ramos, Claudia Velasco |
| Mongolia | |
| Netherlands | Flora Van Houwelingen, Bea ten Tuscher, Hein van der Hoeven, Marjan Kamstra, Fineke van der Veen, Carlien Scheele, Peter-Derrek Hof, Heleen Bakker, H. L. F. Carlo, Jacqueline Martes |
| Nicaragua | Ivania Toruño, Mario Castellón Duarte, Eugenio Cano, Felix Parrales, Mauricio Solórzano |
| Pakistan | Nilofer Bakhtiar, Munir Akram, Masood Khalid, Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, M. Syrus Qazi |
| Peru | Elizabeth Querol de Arana, Oswaldo de Rivero, Grecia Rojas Ortiz , Marco Balarezo, Alfredo Chuquihuara, Romy Tincopa, Carmen Rosa Arias |
| Republic of Korea | Lee Ho-jin, Kang Kyung-wha, Cho Kin-woo, Kang Sun-Hye, Lee Kyung-ah, Lee Hyeo-Kyeong, Paik Young-Joo, Lee Yung-sook, Kin Jung-sook, Kim Lina, Kim Bo-ram |
| Russian Federation | Marina V. Gordieva, V. Anatolievich Vertogradov, Andrey A. Nikiforov, Dmitri V. Kniajinski, Tatiana I. Golovnia, Galina S. Khvan |

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| Senegal | Awa Gueye Kebe, Papa Louis Fall, Maymouna Diop, Mankeur Ndiaye, Malick Thierno Sow, Serigne Mbacke Loum, Absa Wade Ngom, Marième Coulibaly, Marième Ndiaye, Leysa Faye |
| South Africa | Susan Nkomo, Jane Masango, Joyce Piliso-Seroke, Phumelele Nzimande, S. Mokone-Matabane, Pam Mallele, Mandisa Monakali, Jeanette Ndhlovu, Tilana Grobbelaar, Bonisiwe Makhene |
| Sudan | Omer Bashir Manis, Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, Hassan Hamid Hassan |
| Tunisia | Othman Jerandi, Fériel Beji, Hassiba El Arbi, Ali Cherif |
| Turkey | Ümit Pamir, Leyla Coşkun Çinar, Hakan Tekin, Serap Ercan, Nilüfer Timisi |
| United Arab Emirates | Sabah Hassounah |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Angela Mason, Elizabeth Chennells, Margaret Batty, Marina Laudazi, Katharine Felton, Tom Woodroffe, Geeta Unnikrishnan, Margaret Prosser, Janet Veitch, Daniel Barrow, Michael O'Neill, Richard Wood, Phil Evans, Matthew Johnson, Joe Ritchie, Marie Shivers, Kate Tomalin-Reeves |
| United Republic of Tanzania | S. P. Khan, Daudi N. Mwakawago, Haroub S. Masoud, M. I. Mushi, Mwatumu J. Malale, E. E. Mangesho, N. T. Mmari, Rahma Khamis, Jeury Kassim Ramadhan, Christine Kapalata, Hafsa Myowela, Sihaba Nkinga, Ichikael Maro, Imani Aboud, F. Kazora, Salama Aboud Talibu, Nuru Ramsa Mbarouk, Fauzia Mwita Haji, Mathew Mwainu, Adili Mgonja, Magdalena Rwebangila, Ameir H. Ameir, Alice Rugumyamuheto, Michael N. Mwandesi, Suzan Mlawi |
| United States of America | Ellen Sauerbrey, Jackie W. Sanders, Sichan Siv, Katherina M. Blakeslee, Jana Chapman, John Davison, Carl Fox, Frank Gaffney, Lois Gochnauer, Janine Gustafson, Linda Lum, June Carter Perry, Barbara Pope, Claudia Serwer, Michelle Zack, Janice Crouse, Sheri Dew, Melinda Farris, Janice Smith |

### States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Entity maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations

Palestine.

### United Nations

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Population Fund.

### Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

### Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

African Union, Caribbean Community, Commonwealth Secretariat, Council of Europe, European Community, International Organization for Migration.

### Other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly

International Committee of the Red Cross, Inter-Parliamentary Union.

## Non-governmental organizations

A large number of non-governmental organizations that either are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or had been accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women also attended the session.

# Annex V

## List of documents before the Commission at its forty-seventh session

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/2003/1 | 2 | Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work |
| E/CN.6/2003/2 | 3 (a) | Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system |
| E/CN.6/2003/3 | 3 (a) | Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women |
| E/CN.6/2003/4 | 3 (a) | Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan |
| E/CN.4/2003/73-E/CN.6/2003/5 | 3 (a) | Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| E/CN.6/2003/6 | 3 (c) (i) | Report of the Secretary-General on the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women |
| E/CN.6/2003/7 and Corr.1 | 3 (c) (ii) | Report of the Secretary-General on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| E/CN.6/2003/8 | 3 (a) | Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system |
| E/CN.6/2003/9 | 5 | Letter dated 31 October 2002 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women |
| E/CN.6/2003/10 | 5 | Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions |
| E/CN.4/2003/121-E/CN.6/2003/11 | 3 (a) | Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women |
| E/CN.6/2001/12 and E/CN.6/2002/12 | 4 | Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.1 | 3 (a) | Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.2 | 3 (a) | Note by the Secretary-General on proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2004-2005 |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.3 | 3 (c) | High-level round table on national experiences in institutional capacity-building: discussion guide prepared by the Bureau of the Commission |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.4 | 5 | Note by the Secretariat on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for eradication of poverty and sustainable development |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.5 | 3 (c) (i) | Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.6 | 4 | Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.7 | 3 (c) (ii) | Summary submitted by the moderator on round table on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| E/CN.6/2003/CRP.8 | 3 (c) | Summary submitted by the Chairperson on high-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on national experience in institutional capacity-building |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.1 | 3 (a) | Draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" submitted by Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.2 | 3 | Draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)", submitted by Angola |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.2/Rev.1 | 3 | Revised draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)", submitted by Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Israel, Mali and Mexico |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.2/Rev.2 | 3 | Revised draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.3 | 3 (a) | Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" submitted by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/2003/L.3/Rev.1 | 3 (a) | Revised draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" submitted by Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zambia |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.4 | 3 (a) | Draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan", submitted by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.4/Rev.1 | 3 (a) | Revised draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan" submitted by Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.5 | 6 | Draft provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.6 | 7 | Draft report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.7 | 7 | Draft decision entitled "Report of the Working Group on the future operation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.8 | 4 | Draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" submitted by Argentina and the Netherlands |
| E/CN.6/2003/L.9 | 4 | Amendment to draft resolution E/CN.6/2003/L.8 submitted by China, Cuba, India, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan |
| E/CN.6/2003/SW/ Communications List No. 37 | 4 | Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/1 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Center for Women, the Earth, the Divine, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, International Council of |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| | | Jewish Women, International Council of Women, International Federation for Home Economics, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, the Salvation Army and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women, a non-governmental organization on the Roster |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/2 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Center for Women, the Earth, the Divine, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Women, International Federation for Home Economics, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, the Salvation Army and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women, a non-governmental organization on the Roster |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/3 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/4 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/5 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/6 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by Empowering Widows in Development and National Women's Commission, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/7 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by Mothers' Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/8 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/9 | 3 (c) (i) | Statement submitted by the United States Committee for United Nations Development Fund for Women, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/10 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by the American Association of Retired Persons, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhoods Centers, International Federation on Ageing, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Bahá'í International Community, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, League of Women Voters of the United States, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Pan-Pacific Southeast Asian Women's Association International, Trickle Up Program, United States Committee for UNIFEM and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association and United Nations Association of the USA, non-governmental organizations on the Roster |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/11 | 3 (c) (i) | Statement submitted by Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/12 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/13 | 3 (c) (i) | Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/14 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/15 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the All-China Women's Federation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/16 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the European Women's Lobby, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/17 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the Legião da Boa Vontade (Legion of Good Will), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/18 | 3 (c) (i) and (ii) | Statement submitted by World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and Catholic Women, a non-governmental organization on the Roster |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/19 | 3 (c) (i) | Statement submitted by National Alliance of Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/20 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by Franciscans International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Presentation Association Sisters of the Presentation, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., School Sisters of Notre Dame and Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/21 | 3 (c) (i) and (ii) | Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; American Psychological Association, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, International Association of Schools of Social Work, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and World Federation for Mental Health, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/22 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation for Home Economics, the International Federation of University Women and the League of Women Voters of the United States, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/23 | 3 (c) | Statement submitted by the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/24 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the Al-Khoei Foundation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/25 | 3 (c) (i) | Statement submitted by the National Women's Council of Catalonia, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/26 | 3 (c) (ii) | Statement submitted by the National Women's Council of Catalonia, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/27 | 3 (c) (ii) | **Statement submitted by Equity Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council** |
| E/CN.6/2003/NGO/28 | 3 (c) (ii) | **Statement submitted by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council** |

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